

I renew my recommendations made at the assembling of the last session of Congress, that a commission be created for the purpose of auditing and determining the amounts of the several claims growing out of the destruction of vessels and their cargoes by the Alabama and Shamondah after leaving Melbourne, for which the sufferers have received no equivalent or compensation, and ascertaining the names of persons entitled to receive compensation for the same, making the computation of the basis indicated by the act of 1862.

TREATIES WITH FOREIGN POWERS.

Since the adjournment of Congress the following treaties with foreign powers have been proclaimed: A naturalization convention with Denmark; a convention with Mexico for resuming the claimant commission; a convention of friendship of commerce and extradition with the range of free states, and a naturalization convention with Ecuador.

To renew a recommendation made in my message of 1875, that Congress authorize the postmaster general to issue all commissions to officers appointed through the denatmarkure as

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been within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States. On the 1st of October last, while sailing under the flag of the United States in the high seas, she was forcibly seized by the Spanish gunboat Tornado and carried into the port of Santiago de Cuba. A large number of passengers and crew were taken on board, and so far at least as related to those who were citizens of the United States, of LAW.

WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW,
put to death.

It is a well established principle asserted by the United States from the beginning of our national independence, recognized by Great Britain and other maritane nations, that the sense in a resolution passed unanimously on the 16th of June, 1891, that American vessels on the high seas in time of peace bearing the American flag remain under the jurisdiction of the country of which they belong, and there

antly justify it. The revenues derived have naturally fallen far short of the needs of the country for the fiscal year from that they were expected to produce, owing to the general panic now prevailing which commenced about the middle of September last.

The full effect of this disaster, if it should not prove to be a blessing in disguise, is yet to be ascertained. It is, however, your duty to heed the lesson and provide by wise and well-considered legislation as far as it lies in your power against its recurrence, and to take advantage of all benefits that may have occurred. My own judgment is that however much individuals may have suffered, the country has been benefited by a specie payment, that was an never before permanent prosperity until the entire new basis is reached, and a specie basis cannot be reached and maintained until our exports, inclusive of gold, pay-

four years the currency has been contracted directly by the withdrawal of three per cent compound interest on state and government bonds outstanding on the 4th of March 1869, all of which took the place of legal tenders in the bank reserves to the amount of sixty-three million dollars. During the same period there has been a much larger comparative contraction of the currency, the population of the country has largely increased; more than 25,000 miles of railroad have been built, requiring the active use of capital to operate them; millions of acres of land have been opened to cultivation, requiring capital to move the products; manufactures have multiplied beyond all precedent in the same period of time, re-

Repair of six of the six wooden ships, and by the time the repairs are completed, they will be authorized by the last congress (these ships, authorized by these latter laws, are now building of these latter had appeared at a doubly fortunate time). They are about to be completed, when they will possibly be much needed and the work upon them has not only given employment to thousands of men, but has no doubt been the cause of the maintenance with which they are for other works at the time of the greatest financial distress. Since the commencement of last month, however, the distressing occurrence which have taken place in the waters of the Caribbean sea, almost on our very sea-board, while the illustration does forcibly and so clearly convey to the mind the present situation, one should maintain in a state of efficiency, navy, adequate to its responsibility, has at all times time determined that all the effective force was really have shall be put in immediate readiness.

commend that so much of said act
 voids for involuntary bankruptcy
 count of the suspension of pay-
 ment repealed.

CLAIMS.

Your careful attention is invited
 subject of claims and the facilities
 by existing laws for their pro-
 cess each of the departments
 the state, treasury and war have d-
 for many millions of dollars upon
 files and they are rapidly accum-
 To these may be added those now
 lying before Congress. These are
 pally southern claims and some
 making in the aggregate \$100 mil-
 lion. Most of these grew out of
 beillion and are intended to in-
 persons, on both sides, for losses
 the war; and not a few of them
 created and supported by false tes-
 timony. Projects are on foot it is believed